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DE RUEHRH #1461 0670810
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 080810Z MAR 06
FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4808
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2486
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C O N F I D E N T I A L RIYADH 001461

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DHAHRAN SENDS
PARIS FOR ZEYA, LONDON FOR TSOU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/08/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [PINR](#) [SA](#)
SUBJECT: SHI'A ACTIVIST SAYS SHIRAZIS ARE MODERATING
INFLUENCE ON SAUDI HEZBOLLAH

Classified by Acting Consul General Dave Speidel for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Shi'ite political activist Mohammed Al-Shoyoukh told PolOff that Saudi Hezbollah countenances only "peaceful" means to achieve its social and political goals. He said that the "Shirazis," who include the most politically active Shi'a such as Hassan Al-Saffar and Jafar Al-Shayeb, have been a "moderating influence" on the leaders of Saudi Hezbollah, convincing them that recourse to violence will not help the Saudi Shi'a community. Al-Shoyoukh brought up Saudi Hezbollah unprompted, during a short discussion about Iran in which he noted that Iran had "popular support" in southern Iraq and in Lebanon through Lebanese Hezbollah. By contrasting Saudi Hezbollah with Lebanese Hezbollah, he implied that Iran did not have significant "popular support" in Saudi Arabia.

¶2. (C) Bio note: Al-Shoyoukh is active in Shi'a political circles: he organizes a regular "cultural, social, and even political" forum on Tarut island and writes and lectures through various Internet sites. A graduate of King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah in 1999, he also undertook religious study in 1986 in Tehran and Qom. End bio note.

(APPROVED: SPEIDEL)
OBERWETTER